

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An electrical connector comprising:
- a housing having a surface; and
- a light source inside the housing,
- wherein:
- a first portion of the surface permits the passage of a first amount of light from the
- 10 light source;
- a second portion of the surface permits the passage of a second amount of light
- from the light source; and
- the second amount of light is different from the first amount of light.
- 15 2. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein:
- the first amount of light is greater than the second amount of light.
3. The electrical connector of claim 2 wherein:
- the first portion is textured; and
- 20 the second portion is non-textured.
4. The electrical connector of claim 2 wherein:
- the first portion is translucent; and

the second portion is transparent.

5. The electrical connector of claim 2 wherein:

the first portion is constructed of a first material;

5 the second portion is constructed of a second material; and

the second material is different from the first material.

6. The electrical connector of claim 2 wherein:

the first portion is constructed of a first material; and

10 the second portion is constructed of the first material.

7. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein:

the surface comprises:

a first side;

15 a second side substantially opposite the first side;

a third side extending between the first side and the second side; and

a fourth side substantially opposite the third side and extending between the first
side and the second side;

the first side and the second side form the first portion; and

20 the third side and the fourth side form the second portion.

8. The electrical connector of claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of wires inside the housing; and

a connector tip partially enclosed within the housing,

wherein:

the connector tip is selected from the group consisting of a universal serial bus connector tip and a firewire connector tip.

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9. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein:

the light source is a light emitting diode.

10. An electrical connector comprising:

a housing having a surface comprising:

a first side;

a second side substantially opposite the first side;

5 a third side extending between the first side and the second side; and

a fourth side substantially opposite the third side and extending between the first side and the second side; and

a light source inside the housing,

wherein:

10 at least portions of the first side and the second side form a first portion of the surface;

at least portions of the third side and the fourth side form a second portion of the surface; and

more light passes through the first portion than passes through the second portion.

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11. The electrical connector of claim 10 wherein:

the first portion is textured; and

the second portion is polished.

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12. The electrical connector of claim 11 wherein:

the first portion is constructed of a first material;

the second portion is constructed of a second material; and

the second material is different from the first material.

13. The electrical connector of claim 11 wherein:

the first portion is constructed of a first material; and
the second portion is constructed of the first material.

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14. The electrical connector of claim 13 wherein:

the first material is polyvinyl chloride.

15. The electrical connector of claim 10 further comprising:

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a plurality of wires inside the housing; and
a connector tip partially enclosed within the housing,
wherein:

the connector tip is selected from the group consisting of a universal serial bus
connector tip and a firewire connector tip.

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16. The electrical connector of claim 15 wherein:

the light source is a light emitting diode.

17. The electrical connector of claim 10 wherein:

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the first side is substantially parallel to the second side; and
the third side is substantially parallel to the fourth side.

18. An electrical connector comprising:

a housing having a surface comprising:

a first side;

a second side substantially opposite and substantially parallel to the first side;

5 a third side extending between the first side and the second side; and

a fourth side substantially opposite and substantially parallel to the third side and
extending between the first side and the second side; and

a light emitting diode inside the housing,

wherein:

10 at least a portion of the first side and at least a portion of the second side form a
first portion of the surface;

at least a portion of the third side and at least a portion of the fourth side form a
second portion of the surface;

the first portion is textured; and

15 more light passes through the first portion than passes through the second portion.

19. The electrical connector of claim 18 wherein:

the second portion is polished.

20 20. The electrical connector of claim 19 wherein:

the first portion and the second portion are constructed of a transparent grade of
polyvinyl chloride.

21. The electrical connector of claim 20 further comprising:

a plurality of wires inside the housing; and

a connector tip partially enclosed within the housing,

wherein:

5 the connector tip is selected from the group consisting of a universal serial bus connector tip and a firewire connector tip.

22. A method of manufacturing an electrical connector, the method comprising:

electrically coupling a light source to a connector tip; and

providing a housing around the light source, the housing having a surface,

wherein:

5 a first portion of the surface permits the passage of a first amount of light from the
light source;

 a second portion of the surface permits the passage of a second amount of light
from the light source; and

 the second amount of light is different from the first amount of light.

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23. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

 providing the first portion to be textured; and

 providing the second portion to be polished.

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24. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

 providing the first portion and the second portion to be constructed of a material
selected from the group consisting of an elastomer or a semi-rigid plastic resin.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising:

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 providing the first portion and the second portion to be constructed of a transparent
grade of polyvinyl chloride.

26. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

providing the connector tip to be one of a universal serial bus connector tip and a firewire connector tip.